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THE FRUIT SITUATION

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Summary

Strawberry and lemon prices at market centers were generally lower in mid-April than a month earlier while prices of other fruits were practically unchanged, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the April issue of its Fruit Situation.

The estimate of the winter orange crop from the bloom of 1938, reported as of April 1, was increased slightly in California and Arizona over that of a month earlier, but crop prospects for other citrus remained unchanged. A relatively large Valencia orange crop is indicated, although it is not so large as that produced from the bloom of 1937. Market supplies of all citrus fruits were heavy through March and the first half of April, and the prospect is that supplies through the summer months also will be large.

Marketings of apples from storage holdings were smaller during March than a year earlier but slightly larger than normal. Mid-April prices at eastern markets were slightly higher than a month earlier but slightly lower in mid-western centers.

Market supplies of strawberries were relatively scarce during most of March because of a delay in the harvest of the Louisiana crop, but by mid-April supplies were increasing sharply. As a consequence strawberry prices in mid-April were considerably lower than a month earlier, and the lowest for the season to date.

## CITRUS FRUITS

April 1 indications of the citrus crops from the bloom of 1938 show little change from those a month earlier. The California navel and Arizona orange crop prospects were increased slightly and added approximately 600,000 boxes to the winter supply of oranges. Crop prospects for all other citrus remained unchanged from that reported as of March 1.

Although additional moisture is needed in important producing areas of California growing conditions there were relatively favorable. The Florida citrus areas received fairly heavy rains during March but more is needed. In Texas favorable conditions are reported. In nearly all areas the 1939 bloom is indicated to be relatively heavy except for Florida grapefruit.

Market prices of most citrus fruits showed only small changes from the middle of March to the Middle of April. California lemon prices declined fairly sharply, however, under the pressure of increased shipments. Although the California navel and Florida orange shipping season will be over in another month or two, the prospect is for continued heavy marketings of oranges through most of the summer months as the California Valencia orange crop is indicated to be large.

## APPLES

Cold storage holdings of apples on April 1 totaled 9.1 million bushels or about 3 million bushels less than a year earlier but about 800,000 bushels more than the 1928-37 average for April 1. The out of storage movement for March is indicated to total 5.9 million bushels, considerably less than the 7.5 million moved out in March 1938 but slightly more than the 10-year average March movement of 5.6 million bushels. The March 1939 out of storage movement was larger than usual in the eastern States but smaller in the West.

Mid-April prices of eastern and mid-western varieties of apples were slightly higher than a month earlier at New York City but slightly lower at Chicago. Auction prices of western boxes of apples were also slightly lower at Chicago.

## STRAWBERRIES

Market prices of strawberries rose sharply during March but by mid-April had declined to the lowest level of the season to date. The sharp advance in prices in mid-March is attributed to a lull in marketings occasioned by a delay in the Louisiana harvest. Shipments from Florida were practically completed before those from Louisiana attained volume. The recent decline in prices reflects the heavy marketings from Louisiana since the first of April.

Owing to the indicated large production of strawberries in Louisiana and in the second early States, relatively heavy shipments are in prospect for the balance of April and most of May. Production in Louisiana is indicated to total 1,400,000 crates this season compared with 1,100,000 crates in 1938, and the crop in the second early States is indicated at 3,665,000 crates in 1939 compared with only 2,787,000 crates a year earlier. Excluding the Florida

crop which has been largely marketed, the 1939 supply for the early and second early States totals 5,482,000 crates compared with 4,270,000 crates in 1938 and 4,872,000 crates, the 1928-37 average.

Although no information concerning production in the intermediate and late States is available at this time, the acreage available for picking in 1939 is indicated to be substantially larger than a year earlier in both areas.

### FROZEN FRUITS

Supplies of frozen fruits as of April 1 totaled 91.1 million pounds compared with 103.1 million a month earlier and 102.0 million pounds a year earlier. As compared with holdings on April 1, 1938, stocks of blueberries and cherries were substantially lower while those of strawberries were larger.

Table 1.- Citrus fruits: Weighted average auction price per box,  
New York and Chicago, by specified weeks, 1938-39

Market, month and week	Oranges				Grapefruit				Lemons	
	Calif. navels		Florida		Florida		Texas		California	
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York										
Jan. av.	2.44	2.68	2.22	1.85	2.13	1.78	2.11	2.20	4.52	3.86
Feb. av.	2.85	2.58	2.08	1.92	2.14	1.71	1.95	2.02	4.10	3.77
Mar. 4	2.66	2.81	1.87	1.90	1.98	1.81	2.20	1.83	4.05	4.22
11	2.79	2.77	2.16	1.94	2.09	1.69	2.32	1.91	4.99	4.21
18	2.51	2.81	1.89	2.12	2.16	1.57	2.15	2.01	5.35	4.06
25	2.50	2.72	1.94	2.10	2.27	1.58	2.13	1.98	4.86	3.76
Apr. 1	2.33	2.83	1.96	2.03	1.95	1.65	2.11	1.96	4.18	3.45
Mo. av.	2.55	2.79	1.96	2.02	2.07	1.66	2.19	1.94	4.65	3.92
Apr. 8	2.50	2.83	2.11	2.08	2.05	1.83	2.49	1.90	4.13	3.23
15	2.69	2.82	2.05	2.21	2.17	1.83	3.04	2.05	4.33	3.22
Chicago										
Jan. av.	2.37	2.58	2.15	1.97	1.90	1.72	1.86	1.95	4.56	3.89
Feb. av.	2.73	2.46	2.10	2.02	1.76	1.81	1.89	1.91	4.22	4.20
Mar. 4	2.73	2.47	1.96	1.94	2.47	1.92	2.14	1.80	4.50	4.41
11	2.88	2.66	2.11	2.00	1.91	1.56	2.19	1.72	5.03	4.18
18	2.47	2.61	2.03	2.13	2.09	1.68	1.91	1.63	4.60	3.90
25	2.44	2.73	2.08	2.15	2.06	1.30	1.88	1.74	4.47	3.57
Apr. 1	2.36	2.70	2.06	2.30	1.38	2/2.03	1.97	1.76	4.39	3.33
Mo. av.	2.56	2.65	2.07	2.14	2.03	1.61	2.02	1.71	4.58	3.81
Apr. 8	2.43	2.72	2.12	2.24	2.40	1.65	2.20	1.80	4.01	3.36
15	2.80	2.76	2.18	2.42	2.09	1.88	2.47	1.89	3.92	3.29

1/ Includes 2-bushel Bruce boxes converted to basis of standard boxes.

2/ Less than 500 boxes sold.

Table 2.- Citrus fruits: Production, average 1927-36, annual 1937-38

Crop and State	Production <sup>1/</sup>				
	Average 1927-36	1937	Indicated 1938	1938 as percentage of average	1938 as percentage of 1937
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	Percent	Percent
<u>Oranges:</u>					
Winter and spring varieties					
Calif. navels and misc.....	14,871	16,680	16,800	113.0	100.7
Fla. all.....	16,121	26,700	29,900	185.5	112.0
Early and mid-season.....	2/10,475	13,700	15,500	148.0	113.1
Valencias.....	2/ 6,300	10,700	11,200	177.8	104.7
Tangerines.....	2/ 2,275	2,300	3,200	140.7	139.1
Tex.....	540	1,440	2,600	481.5	180.6
Ariz.....	151	350	360	238.4	102.9
Ala. 3/.....	81	76	96	118.5	126.3
Miss. 3/.....	37	67	80	216.2	119.4
La.....	251	238	385	153.4	161.8
Total.....	32,051	45,551	50,221	156.7	110.3
Summer and early fall varieties:					
Calif. Valencias.....	17,526	28,925	26,270	149.9	90.8
Total 7 States 4/.....	49,577	74,476	76,491	154.3	102.7
<u>Grapefruit:</u>					
Fla. all.....	12,194	14,600	21,000	172.2	143.8
Seedless.....	2/ 4,225	5,500	7,500	177.5	136.4
Other.....	2/ 9,650	9,100	13,500	139.9	148.4
Tex.....	2,410	11,800	15,000	622.4	127.1
Ariz.....	746	2,750	3,000	402.1	109.1
Calif.....	1,422	1,943	1,896	133.3	97.6
Total 4 States 4/.....	16,772	31,093	40,896	243.8	131.5
<u>Lemons:</u>					
Calif. 4/.....	7,487	9,355	10,686	142.7	114.2
<u>Limes:</u>					
Fla.....	12	70 5/	95	791.7	135.7

<sup>1/</sup> Relates to crop from bloom of year shown, picking beginning November 1 in California and September 1 in other States. <sup>2/</sup> Short-time average.

<sup>3/</sup> Production estimated in terms of standard boxes, each equal to about 2 of the "halfstraps" commonly used. <sup>4/</sup> Net content of boxes varies. In California and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 70 pounds net and grapefruit 60 pounds; in Florida and other States, oranges 90 pounds and grapefruit 80 pounds; California lemons about 76 pounds net. <sup>5/</sup> December 1 indicated production.

Table 3.- Oranges: Weekly shipments from producing areas, by varieties and totals, November to April 1937-38 and 1938-39

1/ Includes shipments from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and tangerines, and a few shipments of California-Arizona Navels and Miscellaneous.

2/ Excluding relief shipments.

3/ Purchases made by Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Table 4.-Grapefruit: Weekly shipments from producing areas and totals, November to April 1937-38 and 1938-39

1/ Purchases made by Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Table 5.- Apples: March 1 and April 1 cold storage holdings, 1928-39

Year	Baskets and		Western boxes		Total	
	barrels 1/					
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
1928 .....	4,074	2,403	7,023	4,960	11,097	7,363
1929 .....	5,556	3,264	7,995	4,889	13,551	8,153
1930 .....	5,496	2,997	7,282	4,790	12,778	7,787
1931 .....	4,301	1,899	11,371	6,852	15,672	8,751
1932 .....	7,468	3,843	8,789	5,886	16,257	9,729
1933 .....	7,065	4,220	7,179	4,462	14,244	8,682
1934 .....	4,983	2,627	6,591	3,766	11,574	6,393
1935 .....	6,099	3,741	7,839	4,185	13,938	7,926
1936 .....	8,554	5,255	9,374	6,052	17,928	11,307
1937 .....	5,384	2,780	6,809	4,580	12,193	7,360
Average .....						
1928-37 ...	5,898	3,303	8,025	5,042	13,923	8,345
1938 .....	11,571	7,232	7,969	4,807	19,540	12,039
1939 .....	7,257	4,157	7,751	4,977	15,008	9,134

1/ Includes eastern boxes or crates. Barrels converted on basis of 1 barrel equivalent to 3 bushels.

Table 6.- Apples: April 1 cold storage holdings, by States, and containers, 1938 and 1939

State	Apr. 1, 1939				Apr. 1, 1938	
	Barrels		Western	Baskets	Total	Total
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Vermont .....	---	---	7	7	7	31
Massachusetts .....	---	3	38	41	41	204
New York .....	---	7	1,372	1,379	1,379	2,319
New Jersey .....	---	7	435	442	442	462
Pennsylvania .....	---	44	327	371	371	624
Ohio .....	---	23	108	131	131	378
Indiana .....	---	8	38	46	46	94
Illinois .....	---	25	277	302	302	541
Michigan .....	---	---	369	369	369	355
Wisconsin .....	---	11	21	32	32	49
Minnesota .....	---	44	5	49	49	54
Missouri .....	---	32	107	139	139	268
Virginia .....	21	11	769	843	843	1,709
West Virginia .....	---	---	65	65	65	142
Texas .....	---	45	---	45	45	61
Washington .....	---	3,587	---	3,587	3,587	3,441
Oregon .....	---	294	---	294	294	197
California .....	---	760	---	760	760	642
Other States .....	4	66	154	232	232	468
United States ....	25	4,967	4,092	9,134	9,134	12,039

Table 7.- Apples, western: Weighted average auction price per box, all grades, at New York and Chicago, by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Market and week	1938				1939			
	Washington		All	Washington	All	Washington	All	Washington
	Deli- cious	Rome Beauty	Wine- sap	leading varie- ties	Deli- cious	Rome Beauty	Wine- sap	leading varie- ties
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>New York</u>								
Mar. 4	: 1.52	1.46	1.44	1.49	: 2.01	1.75	1.85	1.93
11	: 1.52	1.33	1.40	1.46	: 1.97	1.54	1.77	1.84
18	: 1.62	1.43	1.39	1.51	: 2.11	1.62	1.81	1.94
25	: 1.52	1.34	1.24	1.41	: 2.21	1.57	1.76	2.01
Apr. 1	: 1.40	1.36	1.13	1.35	: 2.26	1.60	1.74	2.05
8	: 1.37	1.36	1.26	1.37	: 2.23	1.75	1.84	2.03
15	: 1.65	1.58	1.41	1.64	: 2.11	1.59	1.84	1.91
<u>Chicago</u>								
Mar. 4	: 1.26	1.00	--	1.13	: 1.79	1.47	1.67	1.66
11	: 1.29	1.09	1.25	1.14	: 1.95	1.39	1.64	1.77
18	: 1.33	1.11	1.07	1.13	: 1.77	1.41	1.71	1.66
25	: 1.23	1.09	1.04	1.08	: 1.75	1.32	1.66	1.60
Apr. 1	: 1.23	.99	1.10	1.06	: 1.77	1.27	1.65	1.64
8	: 1.27	1.03	1.14	1.14	: 1.97	1.35	1.64	1.73
15	: 1.47	1.20	1.28	1.30	: 1.93	1.41	1.70	1.79

Table 8.-Apples, eastern: Unweighted average price per bushel, United States No. 1,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch minimum, f.o.b. usual terms, Rochester, New York by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	1938				
	Baldwin		McIntosh	Ben Davis	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
Mar. 5	: 1/ .80		.67	---	.81
12	: .70		.83	1/ .35	.74
19	: .75		.82	1/ .35	.76
26	: .75		.81	.45	.71
Apr. 2	: .74		1/ .75	.42	.63
9	: .73		.79	---	.74
16	: .66		.63	---	.65
				1939	
Mar. 4	: 1.12		1.15	.74	.94
11	: 1.12		1.22	.72	1.00
18	: 1.18		1.21	.78	1.16
25	: 1.15		1.24	.77	1.10
Apr. 1	: 1.16		1.25	.73	1.09
8	: 1.15		---	.75	1.12
15	: 1.16		---	.78	1.05

1/ Average for 1 day.

Table 9.-Apples, eastern and mid-western: Unweighted average wholesale price per bushel, for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. #1 when quoted) at New York City and Chicago, by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Market and week	1938				1939				1939			
	New York		: All varieties		New York		: All varieties		New York		: All varieties	
	Mc- Intosh	Green- ing	Bald- win	ties and States	Mc- Intosh	Green- ing	Bald- win	ties and States	Mc- Intosh	Green- ing	Bald- win	ties and States
	: Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	: Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	: Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>New York</u>	:											
Mar. 4	:	1.25	.88	.80	1.02	1.75	1.26	1.14	1.48			
11	:	1.27	.95	.79	1.06	1.75	1.18	1.14	1.50			
18	:	1.25	.94	.78	1.00	1.85	1.27	1.20	1.60			
25	:	1.19	.89	.81	1.02	1.90	1.42	1.18	1.57			
Apr. 1	:	1.21	.87	.69	1.05	1.81	1.37	1.23	1.57			
8	:	1.26	.87	.73	1.00	1.82	1.33	1.24	1.58			
15	:	1.27	---	.77	1.07	1.79	1.33	1.16	1.53			
	:											
	:	Michigan				:	Michigan					
<u>Chicago</u>	:											
Mar. 4	:	1.25	.90	.82	1.00	1.61	1.27	1.35	1.46			
11	:	1.28	1.00	.84	1.00	1.50	1.30	1.36	1.46			
18	:	1.32	1.00	.83	1.06	1.50	1.32	1.42	1.46			
25	:	1.25	1.05	.82	1.00	1.53	1.30	1.39	1.45			
Apr. 1	:	1.12	1.00	.82	.88	1.52	1.35	1.36	1.40			
8	:	1.25	.88	.50	1.04	1.44	1.40	1.43	1.38			
15	:	1.34	1.00	.86	1.07	1.53	---	1.44	1.46			
	:											

Table 10.-Apples, western: Unweighted average price per box, extra fancy grade, medium size, f.o.b. usual terms, Wenatchee-Yakima, Washington, by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	1938				1939			
	Delicious		Winesap		Delicious		Winesap	
	: Dollars	Dollars						
	:		:		:		:	
Mar. 4	:	.96		.76	:	1.50		1.16
11	:	.95		.77	:	1.72		1.18
18	:	.99		.74	:	1.76		1.20
25	:	.93		.73	:	1.72		1.17
Apr. 1	:	1.00		.68	:	1.75		1.13
8	:	1.02		.72	:	1.75		1.13
15	:	1.14		.77	:	---		1.14

Table 11.-Pears: Cold storage holdings, by varieties and containers, April 1, 1938 and 1939, with comparisons

Variety	Unit	Mar. 1	Apr. 1			
		5-yr. av.	5-yr. av.	Apr. 1, 1938	Mar. 1, 1939	Apr. 1, 1939
		1934-38	1934-38	1938	1939	1939
Pears, Barletts	Packed boxes	---	---	6	5	2
Pears, "	Loose boxes	---	---	1	2	---
Pears, all others	Boxes	306	138	132	495	218
Pears	Baskets (bu.)	21	10	7	44	12
Total	Boxes and baskets	327	148	146	546	232

Table 12.-Pears: April 1 cold storage holdings, by States, 1938 and 1939

State	Apr. 1, 1939	Apr. 1, 1938
	Boxes and bushel	Boxes and bushel
	baskets	baskets
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>
New York .....	20	11
New Jersey .....	5	9
Pennsylvania .....	3	3
Illinois .....	6	8
Washington .....	9	7
Oregon .....	149	68
California .....	37	18
Other States .....	3	22
United States ....	232	146

Table 13.- Strawberries 1/ : Acreage and indicated production, 1939 with comparisons

Group and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	10-year average: 1938-37		1939	10-yr. av.	1938-37	Indicated	10-year average: 1938-37	1938-37	Indicated
	Acres	Acres	Acres	2/	2/	2/	Crates	Crates	Crates
<u>Early</u>									
Florida .....	8,120	7,500	9,000	68	70	75	559	525	675
Other States ....	27,500	27,610	25,850	64.2	53.7	70.3	1,766	1,483	1,817
Group total ....	35,620	35,110	34,850	65.5	57.2	71.5	2,325	2,008	2,492
<u>Second Early</u>									
Arkansas .....	19,370	14,100	16,900	41	60	55	800	846	930
Calif., S.dist. ..	1,700	1,800	2,150	186	175	165	316	315	355
Georgia .....	490	400	250	52	60	75	26	24	19
N.Carolina .....	7,910	7,200	7,900	80	52	90	629	374	711
S.Carolina .....	510	250	300	70	60	75	35	15	22
Tennessee .....	16,530	15,600	17,500	47	45	60	777	702	1,050
Virginia .....	6,610	7,300	7,700	78	70	75	523	511	578
Group total ....	53,120	46,650	52,700	58.5	59.7	69.5	3,106	2,787	3,665
Total 2 groups :	88,740	81,760	87,550	61.2	58.6	70.3	5,431	4,795	6,157
Intermediate ....	45,240	44,330	49,200	62.5	65.2		2,826	2,890	Rpt.
Late .....	46,450	53,900	57,000	66.1	70.2		3,069	3,784	due
									May 10
									June 9
TOTAL ALL STATES	180,430	179,990	193,750	62.8	63.7		11,326	11,469	

1/ Estimates include undetermined quantities used for canning, frozen pack, etc.

2/ Crates of 24 qts. - 36 lb.

Table 14.- Strawberries: Unweighted average price per pint of stock of generally good quality and condition at wholesale markets; truckloads, cash to growers; Plant City, Florida; and auction sales Hammond, La., by weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	New York		Chicago		Plant City, Fla.		Hammond, La.		1/
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	
Mar. 4 .....	.14	.11	.16	.12	.11	.07			
11 .....	.14	.11	.12	.13	.07	.10	2/ .08		---
18 .....	.11	.14	.11	.15	.06	.13	.08		---
25 .....	.14	.17	.12	.17	---	.14	.10		---
Apr. 1 .....	.13	.14	.12	.14	---	---	.10		.09
8 .....	.12	.10	.12	.10	---	---	.09		.08
15 .....	.12	.11	.12	.11	---	---	.09		.08

1/ Weighted average.

2/ Average for 1 day.

Table 15.-Frozen fruits: Cold storage holdings, by varieties, April 1, 1938 and 1939, with comparisons

Varieties	Mar. 1, : 5-yr. av.: 1934-38	Apr. 1 : 5-yr. av.: 1934-38	Apr. 1, 1938	Mar. 1 : 1939	Apr. 1 : 1939
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
	:	:	:	:	:
Blackberries 1/.....			---	1,999	1,724
Blueberries .....		Data	6,755	4,831	4,706
Cherries .....		for	16,960	15,622	13,067
Logan and similar berries 1/...:		these	---	2,756	2,358
Raspberries 1/.....		earlier	---	6,745	5,862
Strawberries .....		years	22,678	29,385	25,731
Other fruits .....		not	2/ 55,566	19,107	19,698
Classification not reported 1/:		comparable		22,668	17,910
Total .....	66,922	61,573	101,959	103,113	91,056
	:	:	:	:	:

1/ Prior to July 1, 1938, included under "other".

2/ Includes items designated by note 1/.

Table 16.-Frozen fruits 1/: March 1 and April 1 cold storage holdings segregated by method of processing, 1939

Commodity	Quick freeze	Frozen and preserved		
	processed	(cold packed)		
	Mar. 1, 1939:	Apr. 1, 1939:	Mar. 1, 1939:	Apr. 1, 1939
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Blackberries .....	294	180	1,705	1,544
Blueberries .....	1,319	1,089	3,512	3,617
Cherries .....	2,140	1,761	13,482	11,306
Logan and similar berries ...:	695	450	2,061	1,908
Raspberries .....	1,192	894	5,553	4,968
Strawberries .....	10,450	9,437	18,935	16,294
Other fruits .....	5,935	5,553	13,172	14,145
Classification not reported ..	4,478	4,810	18,190	13,100
Total .....	26,503	24,174	76,610	66,882

1/ Warehouses were requested to report April 1 stocks of frozen fruits on a basis of container size - those in containers of less than 30 pounds capacity and those in bulk-containers of 30 pounds and over. It is assumed that this request has been followed and that the April 1 figures headed "Quick freeze processed" are the smaller containers and those headed "cold-packed" the bulk or larger containers.



